

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
REGULAR WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013  
6:30P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Council President Porter called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late Arrival), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs, Sr., Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms, Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk, Lindsey Rader, City Attorney

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilmember Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Raynor to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. City Center Project Term Sheets-Lindsey Rader, City Attorney**

- Mrs. Rader asked the City Council if they had any questions regarding the City Center Project Term Sheets.
- The City Council did not have any questions on the Term Sheets.

**2.2. Update on MD704 Project-Shadijah Maddox, State Highway Administration**

- The State Highway Administration was not present at the meeting.

**2.3. Steve Proctor-Proctor & Associates**

- Council President Porter stated that Mr. Proctor was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

- Council President Porter stated that Mr. Proctor would like to meet with the Council and will be coming to the next meeting.

#### **2.4. FY2014 Proposed Budget Presentation-Eugene W. Grant, Mayor**

- Mayor Grant read the transmittal letter to the City Council and requested that the Council refer to the letter in the Budget Packet.
- Mayor Grant stated that the FY2014 Budget is \$3,631, 848, an increase by \$141,755 compared to FY2013.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is \$39,034 that he did not allocate in the budget. It is on page 37 in the Enterprise budget for contingency.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is allowing the Council to allocate those funds in the budget.
- Mayor Grant stated that this budget is not an easy process. Mayor Grant stated that we have Councilmember calling employees and stopping them in the stores telling them they will be written out of the budget. Mayor Grant stated that how could any person make such statements without receiving the budget.
- Mayor Grant stated that this creates a concern for the employee that they will be out of a job.
- Mayor Grant stated that they stated it will be changes in the budget, but never stated what the changes will be.
- Mayor Grant stated that after meeting with Mr. Ashton the numbers were not as expected.
- Mayor Grant stated he had to present the Council with a balanced budget.
- Mayor Grant stated that since he has been Mayor the Public Safety and Public Works have received increases.
- Mayor Grant stated that the other departments have suffered because of the increases in those departments.
- Councilmember Yeargin wanted to know if carpet was included for the Police Department.
- Mayor Grant stated it was not included in the budget, but there is \$39,000 that can be allocated as the Council desires.
- Councilmember Kennedy wanted to know if the raise request from the Police Department was included in the budget from the one unfilled position.
- Mayor Grant stated that they did not allocate the position. Mayor Grant stated that they are getting two new cars and computers.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Auditor has recommended software for the Treasurer's Department to assist with accurate reporting of numbers.

- Mayor Grant stated that as they move forward take into consideration the interest in purchasing other properties on Martin Luther King Highway.
- Councilmember Yeargin wanted to know when the City will be moving forward with those acquisitions.

### **3. LEGISLATION**

**3.1. Ordinance O-13-09 FY2012-2013 Budget Amendment for the Purchase of the iPads'** was introduced by the City Council on Monday, March 11, 2013 and the first reading was concluded. The second reading was held on Monday, April 1, 2013. It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve Ordinance O-13-09. The motion carried.

FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson and Yeargin

AGAINST: Simms

ABSTAIN: None

**3.2. Resolution R-13-16 to authorize the City's approval of the Terms Sheets for the City Center Project.** Resolution R-13-16 was introduced by the City Council on Monday, April 1, 2013. It was motioned by Councilmember and seconded by Councilmember to approve Resolution R-13-16. The motioned carried and was unanimously approved.

### **4. REPORTS:**

#### **4.1. Mayor's Report**

- Mayor Grant stated that the Council has received the FY2014 Proposed budget for the City.
- Mayor Grant stated that April is National Abuse Month and the Health Advisory on Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Councilwoman Simms inquired if Autism Awareness Month is in the month of April.
- Mayor Grant stated that this is Autism Awareness Month and the second annual Conference will be held on April 20, 2013.
- Council President Porter stated that the conference will classify as attending the School for the Banner City Program.
- Councilman Yeargin inquired of Seat Pleasant Day plans being it is less than thirty days away.
- Mayor Grant stated that he is not involved with the planning of Seat Pleasant Day and he has not been for some years now.

#### **4.2. City Administrator Report:**

- Mr. Ashton stated that we have received a letter from Carmody Hills Baptist Church to close some streets on Seat Pleasant Drive in June.
- Mr. Ashton stated that they want to block both sides of the streets on Dateleaf, Cedarleaf.
- Councilmember Raynor inquired if they wanted to block both sides of the street.
- The Council stated that the area of request does not belong to Seat Pleasant.
- The Council stated that they will need to request the blocking of Seat Pleasant Drive from the County as it is a County Road.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he will provide a copy to the Council of the request.
- Mr. Ashton stated that we had received a report from Department of Housing on the property the City acquired the property of 6807 James Farmer Way.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City had received a healthy report and the records must be retained for five years.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he will be providing the City Council with a copy of the letter.
- Mr. Ashton stated that we need to work with the City Attorney on removing the lien from the property on James Farmer Way.
- Mr. Ashton stated that we are acquiring the Gaskins Property and using money from the state.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the City is beginning to create a track record with the State and he is hoping it will assist with the request of increased funding.
- Councilmember Yeargin stated that he has noticed a few properties had been demolished in the City.
- Mr. Ashton stated the properties were approved by the court to be demolished.
- Councilmember Yeargin had requested a copy of the list of the properties.

#### **4.3. Council Committee Report**

- **4.3b Finance & Budget Committee**-Councilmember Higgs stated that the Committee met on March 20, 2013 with Ken of Shorescan.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he has requested to meet with his committee on Thursday, April 4, 2013 at 5:30p.m.
- Councilmember Higgs provided a copy of the program to his committee members only.
- Councilmember Higgs stated that he will be providing a report to the council next month for the last three months of meetings.
- **4.3c Governmental Affairs & Technology**- Councilmember Simms stated that the Committee met on March 19, 2013 with the Nuisance & Abatement Coordinator and Mr. Ashton.

- The Committee requested for the Demolition Procedures to be made clear and to layout in the procedures how the property owner can appeal the demolition action.
- The Committee requested for the procedures to state the appeal must be in writing and sent by certified mail.
- The Committee requested for the procedures to have the process included if the owner remediates the violation before the City demolishes the property that the property owner is responsible to reimburse the City for all cost incurred.
- The Committee requested for the Code Enforcement Officer and Nuisance and Abatement Coordinator to find out from the Post Office how long they hold items sent by Certified Mail after delivery for someone to pick them up.
- **4.3d Human Services, Health & Education Committee-** Councilmember Simms stated that the Farmers Market budget will be \$2,100.
- Councilmember Simms stated that she needs the Council to approve the budget.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilmember Stephenson to approve the Farmers Market budget from 5253.06. The motion carried. It was unanimously approved by the City Council.
- FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Raynor, Simms, Stephenson, Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- Councilmember Kennedy wanted to know if there will be a report.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the rules changed to allow residents of Seat Pleasant to pay \$25.00 per week.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the Farmers will be contacting Mrs. Barnes and/or Mrs. Sanders regarding the market.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the City of Seat Pleasant will be registered on the Department of Agriculture as a Farmers Market.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that Mrs. Barnes will have a table at Seat Pleasant Day passing out nutritional information.
- **4.3f Public Works & Transportation-**Councilmember Stephenson her committee met on March 29, 2013 and Mr. Thompson stated that the covers can be placed over the current Snow Emergency Route signs.
- Councilmember Stephenson stated that Mr. Thompson would like the Council approval on the language for the signs.
- Councilmember Stephenson stated that the sign will provide in-depth information on when to move your vehicles and when the snow will be plowed.

- Councilmember Stephenson stated that they discussed forming a committee to inquire of residents in the Community that are in need of assistances in plowing their snow.
- Councilmember Stephenson stated that we need to be more active in our community and know the residents that are in need of assistance.
- Councilmember Simms recommended that it can be placed in the newsletter.
- Councilmember Stephenson stated that the Citywide Clean Sweep will start on May 18, 2013 and end on June 1, 2013 in Ward V.
- Councilmember Stephenson stated that the Committee discussed a Shredding Event in the City. Mr. Thompson will be following up with DER to seek their assistance again.
- The Committee discussed the Painting of Curbsides and lines, which will be taking place this month.
- The Committee discussed the Snow Emergency and Ice Removal Plan
- The Committee was informed of the New Bus

- **5. NEW BUSINESS**

**5.1. Review of Farmers Market Rules**

- The agenda item was discussed during the Human Services, Health and Education Committee.

**5.2. Grants for Land Acquisition**

- Mr. Ashton stated that he will be working with the County and State to achieve grants to acquire land in the City.

**5.3. Call-A-Bus Ownership Transfer**

- Mr. Ashton stated that as reported in the Public Works Transportation committee the City has another bus.
- Mr. Ashton stated that we can use the bus to provide services without limitation.
- Mayor Grant stated this will assist with the meeting and tour he would like to conduct with the City, which will take them into the District.

**5.4. Public Hearing Date for FY2013-2014 Budget**

- Council President Porter stated the Council needs to select a date for the Public Hearing of the Mayor's Proposed Budget.
- The City Council agreed to schedule the hearing for Monday, April 22, 2013 at 6:00p.m.



- The Council agreed to mail postcards to the residents in the City for the Public Hearing date.
- The Council requested for the proposed budget to be placed on the website.

#### **5.5. Council Budget Review Dates**

- Council President Porter stated the calendar provided a request for the Departmental Budget presentation for April 10-16, 2013.
- Council President Porter stated that they could meet with the staff on April 9 and April 10, 2013 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.
- The City Clerk will provide the department list to the Council.
- Council President Porter stated that the City Council will review the entire budget on a week-end.

### **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **6.1. Review of Farmers Market Budget**

- The Farmers Market Budget was discussed during the Human Services, Health and Education Committee
- The City Council approved the budget as presented.

#### **6.2. Update on Economic Develop Coordinator Position**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the Interview Committee had recommended Jonathan Taylor with Kumase Development as the Economic Development Coordinator.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he has done an excellent job with the Martin Luther King Corridor study.
- The Council inquired if Mr. Taylor was still employed with the City of Capitol Heights as their Economic Development Staff person, and if so will it pose a conflict of interest.
- Mr. Ashton stated that he was hired with them on Contractual basis and it will pose a conflict of interest.

#### **6.3. Update on Carrington Avenue Storm Drainage Project**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the project is in the Capital Improvement Project budget of the County Executive Rushern Baker, III.
- Mr. Ashton stated that the fee will be included on the property tax under storm water

#### **6.4. Update on Tax Certificate Property Purchase on Martin Luther King, Jr., Highway**

- Mr. Ashton stated that the attorney had just received the contract from the attorney on the other side and the contract is being reviewed.

#### **6.5. Council Strategic Planning Retreat**

- Council President Porter inquired if the City could pay for the Strategic Plan from this budget and have the retreat in the next budget.
- Council President Porter wanted to know if the Council could consider the end of May to the first three weeks of June.
- Councilmember Yeargin had requested that the Council complete the survey, if submitted ahead of time.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired if the City wanted to take a stand regarding the County Executive taking over the Schools.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that we may want to meet with DC Government regarding the housing that will be closing in the District. This will create an influx in the City.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that this may cause the City the need to increase the Public Works Department and/or the Police Department.

#### **7. ANNOUNCEMENT**

- 7.1. Public Session, Monday, April 8, 2013, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.
- 7.2. Community Emergency Response Team ("CERT") Program, Saturday, April 6-Sunday, April 7, 2013 from 9:00am-5:00pm, 7911 Anchor St., Landover, MD 20785-Must Register to Attend
- 7.3. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, April 18, 2013, location to TBD
- 7.4. Seat Pleasant Day, Saturday, May 4, 2013 Opening Ceremony & Parade, Seat Pleasant City Hall at 9:30am
- 7.5. Citywide Clean-up, Ward I & Ward II, Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm
- 7.6. Citywide Clean-up, Ward III & Ward IV, Saturday, May 25, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm
- 7.7. Citywide Clean-up, Ward V, Saturday, June 1, 2013 from 7:00am-2:00pm
- 7.8. Community Meeting on April 25, 2013 from 6:00pm-8:00pm

**ADJOURN**-The meeting adjourned at 9:09pm

Submitted by,

  
Dashaun N. Lanham



City Clerk

APPROVED 05/13/13